

functions that are needed to produce the results that the American public demands.

# HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM IN WORLD WAR II

## HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 3, 1995

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for America, World War II began on a day that will live in infamy, and it ended at the dawn of the nuclear age. In between those two events, America and the world as a whole changed forever, as did the lives of each and every American alive at that time.

Americans have begun observing the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II—a horrible war that inflicted more pain, death and destruction on the world than any conflict before it or since. It was a war that claimed the lives of more than 1 million young Americans struggling to defend liberty here at home and around the world. It was war that injured and maimed hundreds of thousands of military personnel and civilians alike. It was a war in which young men demonstrated superhuman courage and determination in places like Pointe du Hoc and Iwo Jima. And it was a war in which others demonstrated almost inhuman depravity in places like Auschwitz and Dachau.

It was in which my father, Jack Fields, Sr., fought as a bombardier aboard a B-24 Liberator in Europe.

But why did he and millions of other peace-loving Americans, eagerly answer the call to take up arms during World War II?

Like millions of other young men in towns and cities across this great country, my father joined the war effort because he knew that there are things worth fighting, and dying, for: ideals like freedom and democracy, and places like America in which those ideals had been brought to life. Like millions of other veterans, he did his part in a worldwide effort to free those who had been conquered and enslaved by the forces of darkness. Countless young Americans traveled far from their homes, risked their lives and endured terrible hardships to defeat the forces that had, temporarily, defeated democracy in western Europe and throughout much of Asia. They did so as well because they knew that the cause in which they were engaged was just. They knew that God would watch over them, as He had always watched over America. And they knew that with His help, they would prevent the flame of freedom from flickering out on this planet.

Many brave young men gave their lives in that successful struggle to ensure that freedom lived on. Many more suffered wounds and injuries that changed their lives forever. Most, thank God, just returned home, found jobs and raised their families. But they, too, were changed by the war. They knew firsthand its horrors, but they knew that it had been necessary to preserve the American way of life that too many of our citizens take for granted.

The men who fought and won World War II were, for the most part, ordinary Americans from ordinary towns across our country. But

they had accomplished an extraordinary feat: they had preserved freedom in America and England; they had restored freedom to France; and they had helped bring about a rebirth of freedom in post-war Germany, Italy, and Japan. The world, then, not only America, owes each and every one of them a huge debt of thanks.

But America owes them even more. It owes them this solemn promise: that each of us will do everything we can to keep America militarily strong—so strong that never again will young Americans be called upon to fight and die in a world war to defend democracy and freedom, because no one will ever again dare threaten democracy and freedom anywhere around the world.

## PROTECT EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL—DON'T CUT THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

## HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 3, 1995

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Legal Service Corporation, and in opposition to the destructive 30 percent cut of that program in the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, a bedrock principle of this Nation is equal justice for all. But we all know that access to justice for ordinary Americans usually means access to legal counsel.

Often, the most vulnerable among us—those most in need of legal help and representation—cannot afford an attorney. That is why the Supreme Court ruled everyone has a right to a lawyer in a criminal case, and it is why President Nixon founded the Legal Service Corporation to offer low-income Americans representation in civil court.

Mr. Speaker, when this House voted to slash funding for the Legal Service Corporation, in my view it voted to restrict access to justice for the over 15 percent of Americans who live in poverty. Mr. Chairman, that is unconscionable.

Legal services attorneys were there for family farmers who couldn't afford high-priced, downtown lawyers, when they helped prevent over 250,000 illegal farm foreclosures. In Vermont and across this country, they are there for battered women seeking orders of protection, child support enforcement, and divorces from abusive spouses. These attorneys were there to safeguard coal miners' rights in Kentucky, and to protect Oregon farmworkers from beatings, kidnappings and illegally low wages.

These public servants are funded by a model of efficiency and federalism. Only 3 percent of Legal Service Corporation expenditures go to administrative costs, meaning 97 percent goes directly to provide legal services for poor Americans. There is no large bureaucracy; the approximately 100 employees of the Corporation spend their time distributing Federal funds to 323 independent, local legal services programs and ensuring they receive the support needed to deliver top notch legal level help. Each individual program is a private, nonprofit corporation governed by a locally appointed board of directors.

Mr. Chairman, the Legal Service Corporation simply extends equal rights and justice to

all Americans; it does exactly what Government should be doing. If we are serious about deficit reduction, we should cut the hundreds of billions of dollars in corporate welfare in the Federal budget. We should eliminate tax giveaways to the rich before we eliminate these protections for the most vulnerable members of our society.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the RECORD a resolution from the New England Bar Association board of directors, which succinctly makes the case for the Legal Service Corporation.

NEW ENGLAND BAR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION

Whereas, equal justice is fundamental to the American system of government under laws; and

Whereas, the inability to afford legal counsel effectively denies access to justice for individuals with legal needs; and

Whereas, the New England Bar Association is strongly committed to support adequate legal services for the poor; and

Whereas, the federal Legal Services Corporation is the organization charged by Congress with funding legal services programs throughout the country to deliver civil legal services to the poor; and

Whereas, local legal services programs funded by the Legal Services Corporation represent the federal government's effort to fulfill the promise that all Americans have an equal opportunity to utilize the justice system; and

Whereas, local legal services programs funded by the federal Legal Services Corporation are a frugal and effective expenditure of federal tax dollars, inexpensively and efficiently serving a broad range of persons with typical legal problems through more than 900 local offices and effectively leveraging local, state and private funds as well as pro bono services from the private bar; and

Whereas, the future of the Legal Services Corporation is at a critical juncture, facing Congressional threats to eliminate or severely cut funding of the Legal Services Corporation; and

Whereas, it is imperative that bar associations and others concerned with equal access to justice and legal services for the poor continue to express support for the civil legal services delivery system which has served the legal needs of the country's poorest citizens; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the New England Bar Association Board of Directors urges all members of the Congressional delegation to support adequate funding for the Legal Services Corporation to address the tremendous unmet need for civil legal services for the poor.

Be it further resolved that the New England Bar Association strongly opposes any amendments to the Legal Services Corporation Act to restrict legal services and pro bono programs in their use of IOLTA and other government and private monies; create obstacles to low income people obtaining justice in the courts and legal system; impinge on confidentiality between attorneys and their clients; or dismantle local control and destroy the effectiveness of the current legal services delivery system.